Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

May 23, 2003

The Honorable George W. Bush President of the United States The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Congressional Rural Caucus and the Rural Health Care Coalition we would like to thank you for your May 22, 2003 letter to Senator Grassley pledging your support for including his rural Medicare amendment in upcoming Medicare reform legislation. As you know, rural providers are experiencing great financial pain and our constituents are in real danger of losing access to their local hospitals, home care agencies, nursing homes, and doctors.

While Senator Grassley's amendment was not included in the conference report for the Jobs and Growth Tax Act of 2003, we are very pleased that 86 Senators saw fit to support this amendment. This overwhelming bi-partisan vote plainly demonstrates the broad national appeal to immediately enact significant reform to an antiquated Medicare payment system that unfairly penalizes rural America.

We look forward to working with you to provide significant Medicare payment relief -- such as that included in the Grassley amendment -- to rural providers in the upcoming Medicare bill, and thank you again for providing your leadership on an issue so vital to the future well being of rural America.

John E. Peterson

Co-Chair, Congressional Rural Caucus

Sincerely,

Allen Boyd

Co-Chair, Congressional Rural Caucus

Tom Oshorne

Vice-Chair, Congressional Rural Caucus

Lincoln Davis

Vice-Chair, Congressional Rural Caucus

John Emerson

Co-Chair, CRC Health Care Task Force

Jerry Moran

Co-Chair, Rural Health Care Coalition

Marion Berry

Co-Chair, CRC Health Care Task Force

Earl Pomeroy

Co-Chair, Rural Health Care Coantion

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Sin	acerely,
ohn E. Peterson/ R	Allen Boyd/ D
Co-Chair, Congressional Rural Caucus	Co-Chair, Congressional Rural Caucus
Fom Osborne/ R	Lincoln Davis/ D
Vice-Chair, Congressional Rural Caucus	Vice-Chair, Congressional Rural Caucus
To Ann Emerson/ R Co-Chair, CRC Health Care Task Force	Marion Berry/ D Co-Chair, CRC Health Care Task Force
lerry Moran/ R	Earl Pomeroy/ D
Co-Chair, Rural Health Care Coalition	Co-Chair, Rural Health Care Coalition

Jim Ryun/ R		C. L. "Butch" Otter/ R
John Boozman/ R		John N. Hostettler/ R
Don Sherwood/ R		Charles W. Stenholm/ D
Bill Shuster/ R		Kenneth R. Lucas/ D
Chris Cannon/ R		John J. Duncan, Jr./ R
George Radanovich/ R		Steve King/ R
Charles H. Taylor/ R	97	Barbara Cubin/ R
Marsha Blackburn/ R		Charles Pickering/ R
Scott McInnis/ R		Michael Simpson/ R
Richard Pombo/ R		Walter B. Jones/ R
Sam Graves/ R	-	Johnny Isakson/ R
Wally Herger/ R		Mark Green/ R

Rob Simmons/ R	Jack Quinn/ R
John N. McHugh/ R	Ginny Brown
Mac Thornberry/ R	Dennis Rehbe
Rob Bishop/ R	Ed Whitfield/
Joel Hefley/ R	George R. Ne
Marilyn Musgrave/ R	Virgil Goode,
Robert Aderholt/ R	Rick Renzi/ R
Bob Goodlatte/ R	Mike McIntyr
Frank Lucas/ R	Doug Bereute
Ron Lewis/ R	Shelley Moore
Doc Hastings/ R	Adam Putnar
Joe Barton/ R	John Shadegg

Robin Hayes/ R	Jim Gibbons/ R
Butch Otter (Duplicate Signature)/ R	Max Burns/ R
Greg Walden/ R	Ike Skelton/ D
Steve Pearce/ R	Colin Peterson/ D
John Kline/ R	John Sweeney/ R
Mark R. Kennedy/ R	Vic Snyder/ D
Steve King (Duplicate Signature)/ R	Albert R. Wynn/ D
Bill Janklow/ R	Donna Christensen/ D (Delegate)
Barbara Cubin (Duplicate Signature)/ R	Timothy V. Johnson/ R
Mark Souder/ R	Ralph M. Hall/ D
Jim Oberstar/ D	Mike Thompson/ D
Jim Matheson/ D	John Tanner/ D